Damage caused by Locusts in Punjab and Haryana

128. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that swarms of locuts have entered several parts of Punjab and Haryana and other parts of the country ;

(b) what steps are contemplated to fight the menace ;

(c) what is the extent of damage caused by the locusts so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) During recent locust upsurge from July to October, 1993, 172 locust swarms entered India from Western Border in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Most of the swarms were controlled within the scheduled desert area of Rajasthan and Gujarat. However, a few swarms escaped to Madhya Pradesh and one small swarm to Sirsa District of Haryana.

(b) The following steps were taken to contain the locust menace :—

(i) Mobilisation of manpower, vehicles, pesticides and plant protection equipment.

(ii) Strengthening the existing communication network with the Police wireless sets, vehicle mounted Army wireless sets and installation of additional telephone.

(iii) Deployment of additional vehicles from the State Governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for ensuring the supply net work of insecticides, plant protection equipment, etc., despite the strike of All India truck operators.

(iv) Setting up of control rooms for monitoring the locust situation and control operations.

(v) Constitution of coordination committees at the district, tehsil and sub-tehsil levels.

(vi) Supply of equipment and pesticides to the district authorities, village level committees/farmers.

(vii) Deployment of ground control teams for monitoring locust activity and undertaking control operations in the locust infested areas.

(viii) Deployment of 2 Vayudoot aircrafts and 2 helicopters for aerial application of pesticides. In addition 2 helicopters were deployed by Government of Gujarat.

(ix) Increasing the frequency of Indo-Pak Border meetings for exchanging locust information.

(x) Seeking international assistance through the Food, and Agriculture Organisation for providing consultants, supply of pesticides, plant protection equipment and communication equipment.

(xi) Procurement and placement of additional quantity of pesticides and plant protection equipment.

(xii) Approaching FAO for arranging aircrafts from Bangladesh for supplementing the aerial control capabiltiy.

(c) Although there has been massive locust incursion and breeding in India, the same was neutralised successfully by mounting effective control compaign. As a result, there has been only negligible damage to crops over an area of 1630 ha. in Gujarat, as reported by the State Government.

Loan Sanctioned by IDA for Quake Hit Relief

129. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that IDA has sanctionad a loan of $ 300m for quake hit relief in Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, what is the amount of loan and assistance received from various international agencies; and

(c) what is the mode of expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) A World Bank team visited India in November, 1993 to study the possibility of providing assistance for reconstruction in the districts affected by recent quake in Maharashtra. The size of the assistance will be available only after finalisation of the appraisal report.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

Rehabilitation of Children Orphaned due to Earthquake

130. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of children orphaned due to the recent earthquake in Maharashtra;

(b) what steps are being taken to rehabilitate the orphaned children;

(c) what is the number of people killed; and

(d) what is the number of houses needed to be built and the cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) 140.

(b) The State Government has a rehabilitation plan for rehabilitating orphaned children in geographically and socially familar environment.

(c) 7601.

(d) 30,000 houses need to be built on new sites at a very preliminary estimated cost of Rs. 475 crores, besides repairs of the damaged houses.

Assistance Received from Different Sources for Earthquake Relief

131. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of financial assistance, both cash and kind, received from different sources, source-wise, for the rehabilitation of people hit by earthquake in Maharashtra;

(b) what is the amount of above assistance spent so far;

(c) the number of people rehabilitated and the houses built so far;

(d) the number of houses destroyed and the number of people rendered homeless; and

(e) the reasons for taking funds from the public in view of aid from World Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) The information is being collected.

(b) Govt. of Maharashtra have so far incurred an expenditure of approx. Rs. 38.00 crores on relief and rehabilitation measures in the earthquake affected areas.

(c) All the victims of the earthquake have been provided with temporary shelters. No permanent houses have so far been built.

(d) The earthquake destroyed 18797 houses completely rendering more than 30,000 families homeless.

(e) While World Bank loan is only in the stage of negotiations, numerous voluntary and non governmental organisations and other donor agencies have come forward voluntarily to contribute towards the relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas.

New Crop Insurance Scheme

132. SHRI RAJENDRA PRASAD MODY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce new crop insurance scheme in the country from the forth-coming Rabi season;